

RIDGWAY FAMILY STATEMENT

The Ridgway family would like to express its deepest, heartfelt sympathies to all of the families and friends who have lost loved ones. We grieve the losses and are sorry that so many have suffered for so many years. We have prayed that truth and justice would prevail in this case.

Be assured that we were shocked to hear that Gary could do the things he has admitted to doing. However, we love Gary, and believe that the Gary Ridgway America now knows is different from the person known by our family. Clearly, there were two Gary Ridgways.

We have always viewed Gary as a kind and compassionate person who was there when the family needed him. He was a responsible, hardworking husband to his wife, and was devoted to his parents until their deaths. He displayed loyalty while in the Navy and while working at his job. He never showed any tendencies to anger and never harbored ill will toward anyone. We saw a reliable, dependable, conscientious guy who negotiated calmly during difficult times, always putting the troubles of others before his own. We had not seen anything that could be considered strange or abnormal. Had Gary shown anything that we thought was improper, we would have brought that to the attention of the authorities.

We would like to thank the law enforcement officials, lawyers, investigators and everyone who have labored for so many years. We thank them for never giving up on this case and for their commitment to justice. We were extremely grateful when Gary agreed to cooperate and accept responsibility for his actions.

We pray that these proceedings will help everyone to heal who has been so profoundly affected by this tragedy.